

To

The Secretary  
Sangeet Natak Akademi  
Ravindra Bhavan, Ferozshah Road  
New Delhi -110001

**Sub: Scheme for "Safe Guarding the intangible cultural heritage and diverse cultural traditions of India" - reg.**

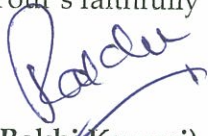
Dear Sir,

This is hereby to submit my first Section of working process of the survey for which you conveyed the sanctioned of grant from the Ministry of Culture, Govt of India via Sangeet Natak Akademi. This is my initial stage of work, for which I have spent almost 02 months, Roaming and Speaking to Peoples of this Islands. As the people due to some fear or something don't want to disclose things completely regarding tribes of the Islands. Also I'm expected to proceed on this officially, taking permission from the responsible authority, for which I'm in process hoping positive response. On the whole it's a great experience for me going back towards my own origin .

I thank you again for sanctioning me the grant. Will continue with my journey towards "Andaman Islands Negritos".

Thanking You,

Date:  
Place:

Your's faithfully  
  
(Ms. Rakhi Kumari)  
Artist

## Andaman Islands Negritos

Archeologically the age of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is about One Lakhs Sixty Seven thousand years. Experts believe that strong Volcanic Eruption in the sea gave birth to Andaman Islands during time. This ancient tribe of JARAWA is surviving in the deep rain forest of Andaman Islands for more than 50,000 Years. They started to walk western direction from Africa to Asia, One Lakh years back. They are actually today's Negrito tribes of Andaman. They are the descendants of stone-age settlers. This people of the Andmaan are staying by maintaining their heritage for the thousands of years. Their curled small hair on head, dark black skin complexion hints and shows that these Negrito People are from Africa to Asia. The word JARAWA means "Attacking People". This words was first used by "Great Andamanese" the direct descendants of African Pygmies.

## Habitation

JARAWAS lead semi-nomadic life. They do not stay at one hut for a long time. The huts of the JARAWAS are both community type huts and Individual type huts. They live a very simple life, they also remain cheerful and due to presence of this ancient tribe, vast forest of Andaman is still preserved. Previously whenever outsiders came to their territory they used to fight with them. That was the Era of penal settlement in Andaman. But now JARAWAS never kill outsiders in their forest. They never kills innocent person. They give warning for several times by their traditional style before killing enemy in their territory.

## Day to Day Life

JARAWAS rise early in the morning and go for hunting in jungle. Only sick persons remain in hut. In hunting activities both men and women take part. The day they do not go for hunting in jungle they remain busy at hut. Male persons prepare bows and arrows, knife and pot for keeping honey. JARAWA women prepare basket of cane. The JARAWA youth during their free time prepare chest-guards using bark of trees. During the hunting of jungle pig with bow and arrow they wear chestguards, which shows their efficiency. When JARAWA youth kills one jungle pig with arrow individually, is declared adult by the JARAWA Society and observes Adulthood ceremony. They during evening hours engage themselves in enjoyment at their hut. Children dance and Sing, women are busy in their cooking job.



## Food

The favourite non-vegetarian foods of JARAWAS are jungle pig, different birds, Sea Fish and different kinds of Shells, Tortoise and Maggots. Their vegetarian foods are fruits of trees, tubers of plants, jungle jack fruits, jungle mango, cane fruits and kewri fruits. In the forest there are plenty of Vegetarian fruits but a minor crisis of non-vegetarian foods Occurred in present suitation. They eat their hunted foods as raw or by roasting in fire, sometimes even by boiling. They do not know use of salt in their food. They do not use oil and spices while preparing food. At present little bit changes of food habit have touched the community. "The Barter" of packet of a biscuit by civilized man for a bow and arrow. There was a time JARAWA used to collect apple, pineapple and biscuits to eat from the tourist going through the trunk road of Andaman. Along with that they started eating oily and spicy foods and used to enjoy that daily with pleasure, which did affected their health. Now Andaman Administration is taking measures to stop this.

## Entertainment

In free time they keep themselves engaged in dance and song. The day they return from the jungle with good food items they enjoy dinner together and sing in chorus, in group. Their favourite Chorus song is "Ole Lolo Ole Lo". They have no musical instrument, while singing they maintain the time and rhythm in their songs.

## Beautification

The JARAWAs are very much beauty conscious. The naked JARAWAS wear band made of red colored threads and herbs, tying in different parts of body like around neck, waist, arms and head.

## Appearance

The JARAWAS of Andaman are from medium to tall in figure. Usually a male is taller than a female. Their complexion is Dark Shiny Black, Black and curled hair. Eyes are staring. They are fond of red color cloth. One favourite cosmetic procedure of JARAWA tribe is painting themselves. They prepare one special paint Greyish to White in color by using soil from seashore. They design their bows, arrows and honey pots with red colored threads.

Ornaments made of Human Bones are very favourite to them. These bones are of their ancestors, with small and short bones they make necklace, they also wear this in waist. After coming in contact to civilized world JARAWA men women and children started to wear shirt, pant and maxy. They are fond of red garments.

## Handicrafts

JARAWA make various household articles like honey pot, JARAWA lamp, basket etc. They are expert in construction of huts, manufacture of both bow and arrow, chestguards and preparing threads etc. with tremendous efforts and labour.

## The Social System

The JARAWA tribe leads community life. All relations exist in the community. Widows and unmarried girls stay in separate hut located near community hut. They live with love and affection for each other. In the sickness of wife, husband nurses his wife in every way. The relation between husband and wife is always strong and sweet in the community. The husband takes care of his pregnant wife and bring her good hunted foods and performs the duty of a responsible husband.

## Customs, Rituals and Beliefs

Each and every community of JARAWA tribe has customs and Rituals of its own. The culture and customs of one community may not be accepted heartily by others. To one community what is culture and customs may be a superstition to other communities.

## Funeral

After the death of some member at their hut, JARAWAS leave the hut and place for 4-5 months. They wear ornaments made of bones of ancestors. By wearing this ornament they feel that chronic disease will be cured and unnatural power will go away. JARAWA tribe never dispose the adult dead body by burial system. Only small child's dead body is disposed by burying in nearby soil or hut. The JARAWAS to observe the sign of sorrow amongst themselves apply a layer of paste made of pale color clay on their forehead.

After 4-5 months they return to their abandoned hut place. Then as a part of completion of dead body disposal system the nearest relative of the dead one takes all the bones from the dead body and prepare ornaments and wear the same in remembrance of the departed soul.

## Source

- Conversations with local people.
- Interaction with few JARAWA welfare workers.
- Observation and reading various ideas .

to be contd....